Established 1914

Make collaborative efforts to enable the Union of Myanmar to stand as independent nation

To enable the Union of Myanmar to stand staunchly among the world’s nations as an independent nation and to safeguard its sovereignty perpetually, all of us must make collaborative efforts and also strive for greater consolidation of national unity, maintenance of stability and enhancement of national development.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message sent to the 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Independence Day)

Senior General Than Shwe, Daw Kyaing Kyaing host Independence Day commemorative reception and dinner

YANGON, 4 Jan — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted the 58th Anniversary Independence Day commemorative reception and dinner at the Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road here this evening.

The Senior General and wife arrived at the building at 6:30 pm. Together with Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the Senior General cordially greeted Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Myanmar Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mme Phoebe A Gomez, diplomats of foreign embassies in Yangon and their spouses, resident representatives of UN agencies in Yangon and their wives.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Win, SPDC members and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Yangon Division PDC chairman, ministers and their wives, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee chairman the Yangon Mayor and their wives, deputy ministers and their (See page 7)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Resolution on 58th Anniversary Independence Day

There is no nobler task than safeguarding Independence & Sovereignty. Let us thus dedicate ourselves to safeguard Independence & Sovereignty with the strength of national unity as well as with full patriotism and Union Spirit at the risk of our lives.

Invitational swimming competitions held

YANGON, 4 Jan—Myanmar-Thai Friendly invitational swimming competitions and the second state and division swimming competitions were held this afternoon at National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road here.

At the opening ceremony, President Dr Khin Shwe of Myanmar Swimming Federation extended greetings and leader of Thai swimming team Maj-Gen Pichit Boonyatikarn spoke words of thanks.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department, Chairperson of the Central Working Committee of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and officials presented awards to winners of the competitions.

After the competitions, the demonstration of synchronized swimming was presented.

At the invitational competitions, Myanmar bagged five gold, four silver, three bronze and four gold, five silver and five bronze went to the Thai team. — MNA

Independence Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 4 Jan—The 58th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition continued today attracting 5,642 people at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall here.

At the exhibition, students participated in Teaching Contest with Audio Language Lab organized by Soft Guide Computer Co Ltd and winners were awarded.

Ministries are staging thirteen booths, and book shops are being kept open. Moreover, posters, colour photos and paintings depicting activities of independence struggle, building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, safeguarding of independence, scenic and natural beauties of Myanmar are also exhibited. The exhibition will continue up to 11 January. — MNA

Invitational swimming competitions held

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At the invitational competitions, Myanmar bagged five gold, four silver, three bronze and four gold, five silver and five bronze went to the Thai team. — MNA

Water supply facilities opened in Yesagyo Township

YANGON, 4 Jan—As a gesture of hailing the 58th Anniversary Independence Day, a vocational training school and water supply facilities were opened in Yesagyo Township on 1 January.

First, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Central Executive Committee Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Col Thein Nyunt unveiled the signboard of the training school.

Afterwards, the minister, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, Director-General of the Development Affairs Department U Myo Myint formally opened the water supply plant in No 4 Ward in Myothit. The plant was constructed at a cost of K 58.1 million. It supplies 400,000 gallons of water a day.

In an effort to supply drinking water to Yesagyo Township, water supply tasks were implemented with the cash assistance of the Government and Yesagyo Township Development Affairs Department. A total of 249 villages in Yesagyo Township has clean drinking water facilities.

A tarred road was also inaugurated by Minister Col Thein Nyunt in the township on the same day. It is 1,900 ft long and 12 ft wide and constructed at a cost of over K 6.2 million funded by the township DAD. — MNA

U Aung Khin Soe presents Credentials to Nepalese King

YANGON, 5 Jan—U Aung Khin Soe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Nepal, presented his Credentials to His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal on 23 December 2005, in Kathmandu. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 5 January, 2006

Strive for success of seven-point Road Map

The Union of Myanmar is an independent and sovereign nation and it was 58 years ago that national brethren tried to regain our national independence and sovereignty, risking their life and limb. It was because of their unity, noble spirit and unselfish sacrifices that we got back the national independence and sovereignty. Their struggles for independence have gone down in the annals of history.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sent a message to national peoples of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary of Independence Day for 2006. In his message, Senior General Than Shwe said that the government is translating the seven-point Road Map into reality for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation and urged the entire national people to lend themselves to the task of implementing the Road Map and pull out all the stops to ensure its success.

Upholding the national policy, Our Three Main National Causes, the government is fulfilling the requirements for a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democracy — peace and stability of the State, strong national economy and human resources development.

Immediately after it assumed the State responsibilities, the government’s first priority was to reconstitute the national unity. When they realized the genuine goodwill and correct leadership of the government, the national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold and are now taking part in the national development endeavours.

Now that peace and stability has been prevailing all over the nation, the government is in a position to raise the momentum of implementing the development plan for border areas and national races and the plan for 24 special development regions. At the same time, efforts are being made to improve education, health, agriculture, industrial, electric power infrastructures for higher socio-economic status of the people.

At a time when the government is making an all-out effort for all-round development of the nation while striving for the success of the seven-point Road Map to pave the way for a peaceful and modern democratic state, we would like to call on the entire national people to take an active and enthusiastic part in all these national development endeavours, hand in hand with the government.

Myanmar Swimming Federation President Dr Khin Shwe presents first prize to a swimmer in men’s 50 m breaststroke event. — NLM
Suicide bomber dies in Afghan attack

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 3 Jan—A suicide attacker drove a car bomb into a convoy of Canadian troops in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing himself and wounding a woman and a child, witnesses and a provincial official said.

There were no casualties among the foreign troops in the blast in the centre of the southern city of Kandahar, Asadullah Khalid, the governor of Kandahar province, told Reuters. "A woman and a child were wounded," he said. "Apart from the attacker, there were no other deaths."

Witnesses said the troops attacked were Canadians from a provincial reconstruction team assisting with security in Kandahar.

Kandahar has been the scene of a spate of attacks, including suicide bombings, by Taleban guerillas in recent months.

The attacks have come amid US plans to cut American troop numbers in Afghanistan to about 16,500 from 19,000 by the spring while NATO, which runs a separate peacekeeping operation in the country, will mark the issuance of the warrant of arrest against the suspects, demanding the "fair and impartial trial" of them in the Philippines.

The accused American soldiers were among the 4,000 US troops who took part in the Philippine-US military exercise in Central Luzon in November.

This is the first reported rape incident since the Visiting Forces Agreement was signed in 1998 and entered into force in 1999 after the Philippine Senate ratified the agreement as a treaty.

Under the VFA with the Philippines, the United States will retain custody of its service members accused of wrongdoing unless the Philippine Government requests otherwise.

Philippines ready to pursue justice in trial of accused US Marines

MANILA, 3 Jan—The Philippine Government on Monday assured the nation that it will exercise its sovereignty and justice "in all stages" when US Marines suspected of raping a Filipina are tried.

Presidentiy Speaker Ignacio Bunye said in a statement that both the Philippines and the United States are determined to pursue justice under due process of law.

Four US Marines were charged with raping a 22-year-old Filipina in Sulub Bay, Zamboanga Province, on 1 November.

"Philippine sovereignty is firm as we anticipate the issuance of the warrant against the suspects, which will mark the inception of trial," Bunye said.

However, he noted that the case would not strain Philippine-US relations. "This is an isolated incident and while the case may indeed be a test on some provisions of the VFA (Visiting Forces Agreement), it should not be a test of our time-honoured friendship with the United States," he said.

The prosecutors earlier said that they expected the accused US Marines, who are currently detained in US Embassy, to be kept under custody of the Philippine authorities after the court issues the arrest warrants.

But, Washington has yet officially responded to the Philippines' request for transferring the custody of US Marines except demanding the "fair and impartial trial" of them in the Philippines.

The accused American soldiers were among the 2,043 US military members who died, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,712 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five Filipino civilians.

The AP count is two more than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST on Tuesday.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,043 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,603 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—INTERNET

Three killed in explosion in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 3 Jan—A suicide bomb explosion rattled Afghanistan's southern Kandahar Province, the former stronghold of Taleban, leaving three persons including the attacker himself dead on Monday morning, police said.

"A car laden with explosive device exploded 30 minutes ago killing the suicide bomber and two passersby including a woman and her daughter in Kandahar city," Abdul Hakim Khan, police chief of Kandahar city told Xinhua.

He did not provide more details, but locals believed the target had been the US-led coalition troops.

Some eyewitnesses said that a US army vehicle was slightly damaged in the incident.

Suspected Taleban remnants carried out a series of suicide attacks in the past two months.

Remnants of the former Taleban regime which collapsed four years ago have intensified their attacks since early last year, during which over 1,500 people with majority of them rebels were killed.

A senior Taleban commander Mullah Dadullah claimed last week that the militants had recruited 200 suicide attackers to target Afghan and US-dominated foreign troops in the country.
Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Notification No 1/2006
6th Waxing of Pyatho 1367 ME
(4 January 2006)

(Continued from yesterday)

Agga Maha Ganthavaçika Pankita Title

16. Bhaddanta Samvarabhivamsa, Maha Gandayon Monastery, Bago, Bago Division.
37. Bhaddanta Visuddha, Bo Thein Dan Monastery, Pyay, Bago Division.
34. Bhaddanta Paññananda, Sasana Weponlla Dattaw Monastery, Bago, Bago Division.
32. Bhaddanta Suçitta, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
31. Bhaddanta Visuta, Thiriwela Pariyatti Monastery, Bago, Bago Division.
29. Bhaddanta Sumanadhaja, Seiktapala Cave Monastery, Aungmyingala Monastery, Mandalay Division.
27. Bhaddanta Suriya, Pali Tekkatho Uyin Pariyatti Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
22. Bhaddanta Pandita, Pariyatti Marmaka Monastery, Shangwe Ward, Pyay, Bago Division.
17. Bhaddanta Aççhariyañani, Sasana Beikman Nunnery, Sagaing, Sagaing Division.
16. Bhaddanta Samvarabhivamsa, Maha Gandayon Monastery, Bago, Bago Division.
15. Bhaddanta Sunandavamsa, Mingala KanU Pariyatti Monastery, Pathein, Ayeyawady Division.
12. Bhaddanta Sobhita, Thantada YwaU Pariyatti Monastery, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.
8. Bhaddanta Nanittara, Myazedi Monastery, Pyay, Bago Division.
7. Bhaddanta Narada, Mawtaung Monastery, Myeik, Taninthayi Division.
5. Bhaddanta Magava, Magindarama Pariyatti Monastery, Pyay, Bago Division.

Maha Ganthavaçika Pankita Title
1. Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, Aunghsupan Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
2. Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, Ariyavamsa Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
5. Bhaddanta Kosalla, Hsinkyon Tawya Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
7. Bhaddanta Indobha, Thandawaddy Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
12. Bhaddanta Sobhita, Thantada YwaU Pariyatti Monastery, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.
15. Bhaddanta Sunandavamsa, Mingala KanU Pariyatti Monastery, Pyay, Bago Division.
17. Bhaddanta Sumanadhaja, Seiktapala Cave Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
18. Bhaddanta Nanittara, Myazedi Monastery, Sagaing, Sagaing Division.
22. Bhaddanta Pandita, Pariyatti Marmaka Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.

Nuns

55. Nun Daw Khemaçari, Chanmyaranthi Nunnery, Sagaing, Sagaing Division.
53. Nun Daw Tiranañani, Thameikdawdaya Corner, Sagaing, Sagaing Division.
50. Bhaddanta Pandava, Khantiyama Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
46. Bhaddanta Visuddha, Bo Thein Dan Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
44. Bhaddanta Nandasara, Athawkayon Shwegyin Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
42. Bhaddanta Tejavanta, Pakokku Monastery, Sagaing, Sagaing Division.
41. Bhaddanta Vilasa, KanU Zetawun Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
39. Bhaddanta Paññananda, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
37. Bhaddanta Viçittañana, Maha Aungmye Bonsan Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
36. Bhaddanta Kavisetha, Byugon Tawya Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
35. Bhaddanta Ñanuttara, Myazedi Monastery, Sagaing, Sagaing Division.
34. Bhaddanta Kalyana, Maha Bawdi Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
33. Bhaddanta Ñanuttara, Myazedi Monastery, Sagaing, Sagaing Division.
32. Bhaddanta Pañissara, Dhammaduta Tawya Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
31. Bhaddanta Munivara, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
30. Bhaddanta Sumanadhaja, Seiktapala Cave Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
29. Bhaddanta Sumanadhaja, Seiktapala Cave Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
27. Bhaddanta Suriya, Pali Tekkatho Uyin Pariyatti Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
25. Bhaddanta Nanusa, Maha Aungmye Bonsan Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
24. Bhaddanta Nanusa, Maha Aungmye Bonsan Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
23. Bhaddanta Ganthasara, Yanaungmyin Monastery, Sagaing, Sagaing Division.
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7. Bhaddanta Narada, Mawtaung Monastery, Myeik, Taninthayi Division.
5. Bhaddanta Magava, Magindarama Pariyatti Monastery, Pyay, Bago Division.
3. Bhaddanta Siridhamma, Maha Theikpan Pariyatti Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
2. Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, Aunghsupan Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
1. Bhaddanta Kosalla, Hsinkyon Tawya Monastery, Mandalay, Mandalay Division.
Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 5 Jan — The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Vladimir V Putin, President of the Russian Federation

Please accept warm felicitations and best wishes on the occasion of the national holiday—the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that the traditional relations of friendship between Myanmar and Russia will be further developed in the interest of our peoples, peace and prosperity in the South-East Asia.

I wish you, Mr Chairman, good health and every success in your responsible activities, happiness and welfare to the people of Myanmar.

From Mr Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine

On behalf of the people of Ukraine and on my personal behalf please accept the sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the national holiday of the Union of Myanmar—the Independence Day.

I am deeply confident, that the relations of friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and the Union of Myanmar will be developing further in the soul of mutual respect for the welfare of our peoples. Availing myself of this opportunity, I want to wish you, Your Excellency, a good health, inspiration and new successes in your responsible State activity as well as peace, well-being and prosperity to the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

With deep respect,

From Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria

On behalf of the Bulgarian people and from my own please accept our sincere congratulations on the National Day of the Union of Myanmar—the Independence Day—and our best wishes for prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Please accept the assurances of my high consideration.

From His Excellency Mohamed Hosny Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

It is with immense pleasure that I extend to Your Excellency heartfelt congratulations on the fifty-eighth anniversary of the Independence Day of Myanmar.

I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency all the best of health and happiness and your friendly people evermore progress and prosperity.

Highest consideration and appreciation.

From Mr Moshe Katsav, President of the State of Israel

“The celebration of the Union of Myanmar’s fifty-eighth anniversary of Independence, offers me the welcome opportunity to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the people of Israel and myself, our sincere congratulations and wishes for your personal well-being and for the continued progress and prosperity Myanmar and its people.”

From Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Your Excellency,

The Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka join me in extending to Your Excellency, our sincere greetings and warm good wishes on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between Sri Lanka and the Union of Myanmar will be strengthened and enhanced further.

May I take this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency, my sincere wishes for your good health, happiness and personal well-being.

Independence Day State Flag Hoisting...

From page 16

The ceremony was attended by people numbering about 10,000. Over 3,000 people from Yangon East District, over 5,000 people from Yangon West District, over 4,000 people from Yangon South District and over 1,000 people from Yangon North District including members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, teachers and students, members of Red Cross and Fire Brigades, departmental officials and service personnel of the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, workers and peasants totaling 9,500 took their positions at the People’s Square at 5.30 am.

Likewise, the USDA CEC members, regional coordinators of USAS from states and divisions, the chairmen, secretaries and members of division and district Peace and Development Councils, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of Work Committee for Observance of the ceremony, directors, general and managing directors, heads of department under Yangon City Development Committee, heads of office of the respective ministries, rectors and principals, medical superintendents, division level departmental officials, township education officers in the area of YCDC, executives of states and division USDA representatives of 16 non-governmental organizations, national races of the Fine Arts Department and local and foreign journalists totalling over 750 took their positions in the People’s Square, the venue of the ceremony.

After the State Flag hoisting ceremony at 4.20 am, the State Flag Saluting ceremony followed. The guard of honour of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) marched from the Pyithu Hluttaw to the People’s Square and took position at the designated place.

Next, Chairman of Sub-committee for organizing the ceremony Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe arrived and took position on the dais.

The commander took the salute of the guard of honour. Next, the mass saluted the State Flag while the band played the national anthem. Later, the guard of honour saluted the fallen heroes and took the four oaths. Afterwards, Chairman of Sub-committee for organizing the ceremony Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe read the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day.

Next, the guard of honour saluted the commander and the people together with the guard of honour left the People’s Square and the ceremony ended. — MNA

Foreign Heads of Government send felicitations to Prime Minister General Soe Win

YANGON, 5 Jan — The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of Government sent to Prime Minister General Soe Win, on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Koasts Karamanlis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

On the occasion of the National Day of your country, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations and my best wishes for the prosperity, progress and welfare of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Mikhail E Fradkov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

Please accept my cordial felicitations on the occasion of the National Holiday of your country—Independence Day.

The relations between Russia and Myanmar have rich history and dynamically develop in the 21st century. I am confident that further activation of our relations meets the common interests of the peoples of our countries.

I wish good health to you, and peace, well-being and prosperity to the Myanmar people.

From Mr Yurii Yekhanurov, Prime Minister of Ukraine

On behalf of the Government of Ukraine and on my personal behalf, I cordially congratulate you on the occasion of the National Holiday of the Union of Myanmar—the Independence Day.

I am confident that the mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries will be further developing for the welfare of the Ukrainian and Myanmar peoples.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish you, Your Excellency, a good health and successes in your responsible State activity as well as peace and prosperity to the people of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Sergei Stanishev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria please accept our best congratulations and wishes on the occasion of the National Holiday of the Union of Myanmar—the Independence Day.

Please accept the assurances of our high consideration.

From Dr Ahmed Nazif, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt

On the auspicious occasion of the fifty-eighth anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you, the Government and people of Myanmar on behalf of the Government and people of Egypt my warmest felicitations and best wishes for the prosperity and well-being of the friendly people and Government of the Union of Myanmar.

From Punsari Wickramanayake, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Excellency,

I have great pleasure in extending to Your Excellency my warm greetings on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that the close and cordial relations existing between our two countries will be further consolidated for the mutual benefit of our two countries in the future. Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and happiness.

National races and guests attend 58th Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony. MNA
Senior General Than Shwe, …

(from page 1)

wives, the directors-general of the SPDC Office, the Government Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, chairman of subcommittees for Observation of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day, regional coordinators of States and Divisions of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (HQ), the winners of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day commemorative essay, poem, TV quiz and computer art competitions and distinguished guests.

Before and during the dinner, vocalists presented entertainment programmes to the accompaniment of Myanma Athan modern music troupe, and after the dinner, artists of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture, a variety of traditional dances.

MNA

Monywa, Yinmabin equipped with transport and water facilities

Women’s vocational training school opened in Yinmabin

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Aye and ministers pose for a documentary photo at the opening ceremony of Strand Road in Monywa. — MNA

YANGON, 4 Jan — Chairman of subcommittees for Observation of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day, Secretary of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Myint, Director of Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee U Khin Maung Swe and Secretary of Sagaing Division USDA Dr Win Myint Aung formally opened the new road where the commander and the ministers then inspected and cordially greeted the local people.

The commander and the ministers met people at the training school. The minister said necessary assistance was provided for development of west bank of Chindwin River under the guidance of the Head of State and considerable progress has been made. Rural region development tasks are being implemented for narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas.

He said almost every village has developed in economic and education sectors and their living standard has also improved due to the cooperation of the government, the Tatmadaw and the people.

He spoke of the need for local people to strive for more development of the regions.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt said domestic science, training schools were opened beginning 1992 under the rural development programme. There are now 34 training schools, he added.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said the government is making efforts for national development and raising the living standard of the people. The seven-point Road Map is being implemented for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed democratic nation. As a first step, the National Convention is now in session.

However, external and internal destructive elements are undermining the national development tasks and the national convention in various ways. He urged the local people to ward off the destructionists.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint also spoke at length on implementation of five rural development tasks by the USDA in cooperation with the people, launching of water supply system, supply of clean drinking water and cooperation with USDA for regional development.

Next, a local thanked the government for launching of water supply system, opening of tarred roads and domestic science training school.

Director of Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee U Khin Maung Swe presented commemorative pennants to the commander and the ministers.

The commander presented a computer for vocational training school, Minister Col Thein Nyunt a TV set and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint sports gear for the township.

Water supply project was undertaken at a cost of K 10.8 million and the Gandama tarred Road was built at a cost of K 5.88 million. The ministers had lakes built spending K 350,000.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Aye and ministers inspect the vocational training school in Yinmabin, Sagaing Division. — MNA
In the world, only when a country strives for ensuring its peace and tranquillity, prosperity and modernization in accord with its own culture, traditions and national character, will that country be blessed with perpetual independence and sovereignty.

At present, all national people have a strong desire to shape a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Similarly, the Tatmadaw, which has always served the public interest, is striving its utmost to develop the nation enlisting the strength of the people by respecting their desire.

As Myanmar is rich in natural resources, she was exploited by colonialists for over 100 years. They exploited all valuable resources of the nation as much as they could. They oppressed the people of the country by practising the divide-rule-policy in order to sow discord among national brethren. They prescribed colonial education system with the intention of putting the entire mass of people under subjugation. The colonialists produced and left brutal remnant insurgents still exist in border regions of the country as an evil legacy.

The Tatmadaw crushed armed insurgencies in Bago Yoma region, Meikhtila, Myingyan, Mandalay and Meikhtila as well as the delta region and Rakhine Yoma region. Bago Yoma was made free of armed insurgency. However, some remnants insurgents still exist in border regions of the country as an evil legacy.

It is a prime national duty to build the nation which lagged behind in development, into a new, modern and developed one. The tasks to fulfill the needs of a nation which lagged far behind are far-reaching wide-ranging in terms of sectors and regions. To build the nation anew, further strengthening of the national force is a must.

Cherish the Independence, safeguard it at the risk of lives.
Industrial sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of industries in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

Emerging factories and workshops throughout the country

In the drives for the Union of Myanmar to become an industrialized nation, plans are being made to build industrial infrastructures based on the agriculture sector. As a result of implementing these plans, industrial gap between one region and another in the country becomes narrow and industries develop simultaneously across the country. At present, industries manufacturing consumer goods and household items, iron and ironware, industries, machine tools, industries, agricultural machinery industries and automobile and spare parts industries have been established in the country. As large numbers of industries have been built within a short period in the time of the Tatmadaw government, these contribute much towards national development and raising the living standard of the people.

Increasing number of factories and workshops built in the country

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<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<td>Private-owned industries</td>
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<td>- Cottage industries</td>
<td>-</td>
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Towards peaceful...

(from page 8)

The Tatmadaw Government has concentrated on the strengthening of national solidarity as a priority task. It has extended a warm welcome to the national race armed groups which in the past rose against the successive governments due to suspicions and mistrust perpetrated by the colonialists. It has opened the door of peace looking forward to the mutual benefits for all. After realizing the genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw Government the 17 national race armed groups and numerous smaller armed groups returned to the legal fold. Today, they are working for the development of their regions, their own race and the entire Union.

This may be seen as an effort to increase the number of patriotic forces who will protect the independence and sovereignty and ensure non-disintegration of the Union. Based on the peace and stability thus gained, the government has been implementing infrastructural development projects in the agricultural and economic sectors, the lifeline of the nation, energy and industrial sectors, transport and communication sectors, and so on and so forth in the nation including border areas and rural areas, leaving no areas unattended.

The government has adopted and is implementing the border area development project, 24 special region development project and rural area development project in order to bring about equitable progress of each and every region in the entire nation. Building of one bridge a month and completion of 12 irrigation facilities a year bear witness to the fruitful results of the combined efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw. Meanwhile, health and education facilities are mushrooming the length and breath of the nation.

At the same time, the government has invested in the education projects designed to continuously turn out qualified human resources. It has also carried out similar programmes to be able to hand over the responsibilities to the future generations.

The onus is on all the patriotic citizens to redouble their efforts to bring about development of the nation which lags behind neighbouring countries. They will have to work harder with determination and nationalist spirit for the nation to be modernized, to be on a par with other nations and for uplift of national prestige and integrity. The people of the nation are to promote cooperation and amicable relations and forge unity among themselves in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Each and everyone in the nation is to give his or her all towards this end. They are to rally round the Union which is rich in natural resources. They will have to try to be dutiful in bringing peace, prosperity and development to the nation.

The national brethren in the past got divided and suspicious among themselves due to conspiracies of the colonialists in spite of the fact that they had lived in unity for ages.

All will have to take lessons from such bitter experiences. All need to keep in mind that the nation lags behind in development due to lack of unity. The turning points in the history of the nation indicate that disunity invites danger whereas unity is conducive to peace and progress.

Hence, at a time when the government is discharging duties day in, day out in the long-term interest of the nation and the people and the Tatmadaw has been carrying out national defence duties as well as public welfare services, the entire mass of the people are to exert concerted efforts for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Then only, will the desired goal be achieved in the near future.

Translation: ST/AK
As there is the danger of destructive elements within and without the nation, it is necessary for the government, the people and the Tatmadaw to safeguard fruits of development.

Taking lessons from the past experiences and upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the Tatmadaw Government worked for security, peace, stability and the rule of law. Then by laying down twelve objectives and relying on its own efforts, the Tatmadaw started building the nation amidst all kinds of hardships and hindrances.
As there is the danger of destructive elements within…

(from page 10)

Government. Meanwhile, the Tatmadaw reoccupied the cities. The then parliamentary government could not implement development tasks effectively due to uprising, insurgency and disintegration in the country.

In 1962, some states tried to secede from the Union and the Tatmadaw took power in the face of disintegration of the Union. In 1974, the constitution was formulated and Myanmar Socialist Programme Party ruled the country for 26 years under one party system. During the time Myanmar of the Socialist Programme Party, there were insurgenacies in the country.

Eventually, a rapidly worsening economic situation and domestic instability led to disturbances in 1988. The whole administrative machinery was dysfunctional and the life and property of the people in danger. According to the demand of time and circumstances, the Tatmadaw had to assume the responsibilities of the State.

Taking lessons from the past experiences and upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the Tatmadaw Government worked for security, peace, stability and the rule of law. Then by laying down twelve objectives and relying on its own efforts, the Tatmadaw started building the nation amidst all kinds of hardships and hindrances. As is known to all, the nation is now enjoying a rapid development in political, economic and social fields. However, as there is the danger of destructive elements within and without the nation, it is necessary for the government, the people and the Tatmadaw to safeguard the fruits of development.

In conclusion, we Myanmar are a people who love independence. It is not enough just to love it. We have to protect it. To be able to protect it, we must be full of physical and mental abilities. And we must build our nation in such a way that it is strong politically, economically and militarily. For this, each and every citizen will have to conscientiously carry out the duties assigned to them.

MNA

Secretary-1 presents prizes to winners…

(from page 16)

standard student Ma Khin Oo Mon of Sittway BEHS No 4 in the computer arts contest respectively.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 gave away first, second and third prizes to ninth standard student Ma Ei Mon The of Nyaunglebin BEHS No 1, eighth standard student Maung Nay Lin Aung of Thonze BEHS and eighth standard student Ma Kathy Kyaw Win of Taunggyi BEHS No 7 in the basic education high level essay contest, ninth standard student Ma Su Sandi Thwai of Yanangyoong BEHS No 1, eighth standard student Ma Khaing Khaing Wai of Taunggyi BEHS No 2 and eighth standard student Maung Paing Htet Oo of Pyay BEHS No 2 in the poem contest, and ninth standard student Maung Zawtika Maung Maung Myint of Bago BEHS No 3, ninth standard student Ma Aye Phyu Nyein of Chaungyethazan BEHS No 16, and eighth standard student Maung Kaung Maung Htoo of Sittway BEHS No 2 in the computer arts contest.

The Secretary-1 expressed gratitude. She said that the Government organized the essay, poem, TV quiz and computer arts contests in line with the National Objectives of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day for 2006. Students participated in the competitions in the entire nation.

While building a new, peaceful, modern and developed nation harmoniously, all the national brethren are to make preparations with Union Spirit and nationalism for overcoming political, economic and educational challenges and other problems in the 21st Century, she said. She added that all the students are to actively participate in the tasks of building the nation in accord with the motto bearing “The modern and developed nation will be built through education.”

In conclusion, she said that the students will serve the duties of building the peaceful, modern and developed nation, upholding the National Objectives of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photo together with the prize-winning students. MNA

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MNA

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeared

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Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Mon Mon Aye of Mandalay Education College, second year (science) student Ma Hnin Oo Yi of Yangon Institute of Education and 2nd MB student Ma Nilar Aung of Mandalay Institute of Medicine in the university/college/institute level essay contest, 4th year BE Cadet Naing Tun Aung of DSTA of PyinOoLwin, MBBS Final Part-I student Maung Thiha Tun of Yangon Institute of Medicine-2, and Final Part-I Medical Science Cadet Chan Nyein Thu of DSMA in the poem contest, second year (science) student Maung Kee Aung Thang of Yangon Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College, third year (history) student Maung Tun Tun Win of Bago Degree College and honour (computer science) student Maung Saw Kyaw Hnin Myo of Yangon University of Computer Studies in the TV quiz respectively.

Next, the Secretary-1 awarded first, second and third prizes to second year (science) student Maung Kyaw Htet Naung of No 1 BEMS Dagon.—MNA
Inclusion of the legislation of the Region and State Hluttaws and that of the self-administered division, and self-administered zones significant

YANGON, 4 Jan — The following is a translation of the discussions submitted to the plenary session of the National Convention by the Union Kayin League regarding the detailed basic principles for legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region or State Hluttaw in formulating the State Constitution read out by U Mahn Tin Maung (a) U Mahn Myo Nyunt of Union Kayin League of the group of the political parties on 2 January at Nyaungshu Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.

The National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman explained in detail the basic principles to be laid down for the legislation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region and State Hluttaws at the plenary session held from 13 to 15 December 2005. He also explained the related sectors, the basic principles the National Convention had laid down, the related sections of the 1947 Constitution, the related articles of the 1974 Constitution and the constitutions of the world nations. The Work Committee laid down 28 detailed basic principles for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, 19 detailed basic principles for the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, and 23 detailed basic principles for the Region or State Hluttaw.

The Work Committee Chairman explained the basic principle “The legislative powers of the State are distributed among Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, region hluttaws and state hluttaws. The legislative power prescribed by the Constitution is distributed to self-administered areas”.

The Work Committee Chairman also suggested that a detailed basic principle “(a) region or state chief minister shall sign and promulgate — the bills approved by region or state leading bodies, as a law within seven days from the date of reception” “(b) the bills approved by self-administered area leading bodies shall be promulgated as a law within 14 days from the date of receipt” should be laid down.”

He also suggested that the detailed basic principle “(b) even though chief minister fails to approve the bills in a fixed period, the bills shall be a law on the date after the expiry of the period as if chief minister ratified them”, “(c) The laws approved by region or state chief minister and the laws that are to be assumed as if approved by region or state chief minister shall be promulgated in the State Gazette”.

The Work Committee Chairman explained “In the process, it is needed to fix an appropriate occasion to declare bills as laws under the signature of the chief minister. In connection with the bill approved at region or state Hluttaw, members of the leading body including the chief minister have been invested with the power to clarify and discuss the bills submitted by region or state government. The chief minister also has had the power to discuss the bills submitted by region or state Hluttaw members.

“So, it is not necessary to distribute the power to the chief minister to send his comments on the bills to the Hluttaws when the bills approved by region or state Hluttaw are submitted to the chief minister. It would be proper if region or state Hluttaw submits the approved bills to the chief minister for his approval, the bills shall be declared as laws under the signature of the prime minister within seven days from the date of receipt.

“Self-administered areas shall enact laws on the matters entrusted by the Constitution to self-administered areas. In the process, head of region or state leading bodies who will serve as ministers in the region or state governments shall resolve the bills in advance in coordination with the region or state chief minister. After approval of the leading body, if the chief minister assumes it is still needed to make an amendment to the bills, he will have the power to further coordinate with the chairman of the leading body, also head of the self-administered area concerned. So, it would be convenient if a couple of weeks is fixed as a sufficient period during which the bills, approved and sent by self-administered areas to the chief minister, shall be enacted as laws under the signature of the chief minister.

“As I presented in the matters on Union bills, even though chief minister fails to approve the bills in a fixed period, the bills shall be a law on the date after the expiry of the period as if the chief minister approved the bills. “A detailed basic principle shall be laid down that such laws shall be promulgated in the State Gazette.”

“In my clarification to legislative functions, I explained that after being enacted by a legislative body, an act shall be promulgated for public knowledge; that in doing so, it is stated in the daily newspapers as well as State Gazette. So, such a law shall come into force from the date of promulgation. “After a bill approved by region or state Hluttaw is enacted, it shall come into force in the region or state concerned. As it is promulgated as a detailed basic principle in the legislative functions of the Union Hluttaw, it should be stated in the legislative functions of the region or state Hluttaw a law shall come into force from the date of declaration.”

The significance of the new constitution will be the inclusion of the legislation of the Region and State Hluttaws and that of the self-administered division, and self-administered zones not any one of the past constitutions had stipulated.

The party has no further suggestions on the legislative sector. I would like to suggest that the 28 points of the legislation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the 19 points on the legislation of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw and the 23 points of the Region or State Hluttaw should be laid down as detailed basic principle. — MNA

State Constitution of a nation will not effectively serve the long-term interests of the nation and the people if it is not in conformity with prevailing situations of the nation concerned

U Yan Kyint Kan
of the
Kokang Democracy and Unity Party. MNA

This is translated from the discussions submitted to the plenary session of the National Convention by the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party regarding the detailed basic principles for legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region or State Hluttaw in formulating the State Constitution read out by U Yan Kyint Kan of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party of the delegate group of the political parties on 2 January at Nyaungshu Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.

The Work Committee Chairman explained in detail the basic principles for legislative functions of Hluttaws. The Work Committee Chairman explained in detail the basic principles for legislative functions of Hluttaws, precise provisions and clarifications have been made and we assume that they are reasonable. The basic principles of a State Constitution need to be positive and to be good basic foundation that can bring about the long-term interests of the entire nation and the people.

The State Constitution of a nation will not effectively serve the long-term interests of the nation and the people if it is not in conformity with prevailing situations of the nation concerned. The detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman on legislative functions and relations of Hluttaws are firm and precise and there are systematic links on functions of Hluttaws (between one Hluttaw and another). They thoroughly cover current international and internal situations in the political and social aspects. He said he has thus no further suggestions to the explanations.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that the functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region or State Hluttaw, the rules and regulations for Hluttaw members, and matters on taking action against Hluttaw members explained by the Work Committee Chairman are reasonable, and so they should be adopted as detailed basic principles. — MNA

MNA
The Wa National Development Party agrees that the points contained in the paras 1 from 23 should be laid down as detailed basic principles.
The detailed basic principle “The reports, papers and hluttaw records published by the Region and State Hluttaws or under its authority shall be privileged.” should be laid down

(from page 13)

Concerning the taking of oath by the hluttaw members, we agree that the para 3 and its sub paras (a) and (b) should be laid down as detailed basic principles. As the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw are the two main legislative bodies, we see that the para 4 and its sub paras (a) and (b) are appropriate for the Constitution.

The following matters are carried out at the sessions of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

1. (a) (1) The Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, and records and publications published by the Region or State Hluttaw, and papers and hluttaw records published by the Region or State Hluttaw member.
2. (b) (1) If it is needed to arrest a member of the Amyotha Hluttaw who is attending a session of the region or state Hluttaw, the para 17 and its sub paras (a) and (b) should be laid down. In connection with the voting for decisions and the right to vote of the speaker, the para 18 and its sub paras (a) and (b) are appropriate for the Constitution. The party supports the detailed basic principles “8. (a) (1) The Pyithu Hluttaw may declare the seat of a member vacant in accord with the rules prescribed if he is absent, without asking the Pyithu Hluttaw to act upon a session for 15 days successively. In computing the absent for at least 15 days from a session of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the postponed period of the session shall not be included.”
3. (b) (1) The Amyotha Hluttaw may declare the seat of a member vacant in accord with the rules prescribed if he is absent, without asking the Pyithu Hluttaw for leave, from a session for 15 days successively. In computing the absent 15 days from a session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the postponed period of the session shall not be included.”

Concerning the vacant seat, the party sees the para 9 and its sub paras (a) and (b) appropriate for the Constitution as detailed basic principles. The party supports the detailed basic principle “The activities and records of the Pyithu Hluttaw shall be released for the knowledge of the people. However, the activities and records that shall be restricted under an act or the order of the Pyithu Hluttaw shall not be released.”

We agree that as clarified by the Work Committee Chairman, the detailed basic principles “(a) The day the tenure of region or state Hluttaw comes into force is that of the Pyithu Hluttaw and (b) The first regular meeting of Region and State Hluttaws shall begin in 15 days after the commencement of the tenure of the Hluttaw.” The State Peace and Development Council shall call the first regular meeting of region or state Hluttaws after the State Constitution has gone into force (b) The present Speaker of region or state Hluttaws shall call the first regular meeting of region or state Hluttaws in accord with the provisions of the Statute Constitution”. (a) Representatives of region or state Hluttaws shall take oaths in front of the chairman of region or state Hluttaws at the first regular meeting of region or state Hluttaws (b) Representatives of region or state Hluttaws who failed to attend the first regular meeting for various reasons shall take oaths at the meeting they attend for the first time before the meeting chairman” and “The interval between the two regular sessions shall not exceed 12 months” should be laid down.

We also agree that the para 5 and sub paras from (a) to (J) concerning the tasks of the Region and State Hluttaws, and para 6 and sub paras from (a) to (c) In our view the detailed basic principles “(a) The first day meeting of the region and state Hluttaws shall be considered to be valid if more than the number of members who have the right to attend the sessions of the region or state Hluttaws , are present. If the meeting is not quorate, it shall be postponed (b) The postponed meetings and the valid meetings, that are extended, shall be considered to be valid if at least one-third of the members, who have the right to attend a meeting of region or state Hluttaws, are present”. “(a) Save as otherwise provided by the Constitution, a member of the Hluttaw shall be deemed not to have been present at a session of the Hluttaw if he is absent, without asking the Pyithu Hluttaw or the committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw for leave, from a session of the region or state Hluttaw for at least 15 days successively. In connection with the voting for decisions and the right to vote of the speaker, the para 19 and its sub paras (a) to (c) concerning the taking of oath by the hluttaw members, we agree that the para 3 and its sub paras (a) and (b) should be laid down as detailed basic principles. Likewise we would like to suggest that the para 6 and its sub paras (a) and (b) concerning the validity of meetings should be laid down as detailed basic principles. In connection with the voting for decisions and the right to vote of the speaker, the para 18 and its sub paras (a) and (b) are appropriate for the Constitution.

The Wa National Development Party agrees that the points contained in the paras 1 from 23 should be laid down. In connection with the above 15 days for a session of the region or state Hluttaw, the postponed period of the session shall not be included”, “A region or state Hluttaw shall have the power to act despite some vacancies in the membership. Any functions in the Hluttaw shall be considered to be valid if more than half the number of the members stated in the Region or State Legislative List” should be laid down.

The party supports the para 13 and sub parts from (a) to (e) amendment or amendment by bylaws, rules and regulations issued by Region or State Hluttaw, para 14 and sub paras from (i) to (iii) concerning with the matters that need the approval of Region or State Hluttaw.

In the party’s view, the detailed basic principles “(a) Region and state level bodies formed under the Constitution shall, of the matters stated in the Region and State Legislative List, have the right to submit bills on matters solely administered by region or state government, to region or state Hluttaw in accord with the procedures prescribed (b) Regional plans, annual budget and taxation matters that region and state government shall have the right to solely submit, shall be presented to region or state Hluttaw in accord with the procedures prescribed”, and “Region and State Hluttaws shall make a decision if region or state governments submit budget of region or state in accord with the procedures prescribed Region or state Hluttaws shall make a decision if region or state governments submit budget of region or state in accord with the procedures prescribed” should be laid down.

In addition, para 18 and sub paras from (a) to (c) concerning with proclamation, para 19 and sub paras from (a) to (c) concerning with the rights of the representatives of respective organizations and invited persons, para 21 and sub paras from (a) to (c) concerning with the rights of the representatives of respective organizations and invited persons to freely give addresses at the region and State Hluttaws and the commission and other organizations formed by the hluttaw, and para 22 and sub paras from (a) to (c) concerning with the arrest of a Region or State Hluttaw member.

Moreover, the detailed basic principle “The reports, papers and hluttaw records published by the Region and State Hluttaw “should be laid down as detailed basic principles. — MNA
**Study shows alcohol ads boost drinking among young**

**Chicago, 4 Jan** — Young adults as well as teenagers drink more under the influence of advertising for alcoholic beverages, researchers said on Monday.

A survey of young people aged 15 to 26 found that for each additional alcohol advertisement viewed per month, there followed a 1 per-cent rise in the average number of drinks consumed, said study author Leslie Snyder of the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

The study’s findings counter industry arguments that only adult drinkers heed alcohol advertising, Snyder wrote in the journal *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*.

In the study — released around the New Year’s holiday that is often associated with toasts and excessive imbibing — the researchers conducted four rounds of interviews between 1999 and 2001 with a group of young people, with the initial 1,872 subjects selected randomly. Another finding was that for each additional dollar spent per capita on alcohol advertising in a particular media market, study participants drank 3 per cent more per month.

**WEATHER**

**Wednesday, 4 January, 2006**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Eastern Shan and Chin States, upper Sagang and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Pinlaung (2°C), Mogok and Heho (3°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.28) inch.

Maximum temperature on 3-1-2006 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 4-1-2006 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 4-1-2006 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 3-1-2006 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 4-1-2006 were nil at Mangladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mangladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northwest at (17:30) hours MST on 3-1-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North and West Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5-1-2006: Isolated light rain are likely in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and surrounding area for 5-1-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and surrounding area for 5-1-2006: Fair weather.

**EARTHQUAKE REPORT**

Issued at 20:00 hours MST on 4-1-2006

An earthquake of slight (3.9) Richer Scale with epicentre inside Myanmar (within Taikkyi Township) about (30) miles North of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (17 hrs) (39) min (54) sec M.S.T on 4th January 2006.
Four political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Secretary-1 presents prizes to winners in essay, poem, TV quiz and computer arts competitions to mark 58th Anniversary Independence Day

YANGON, 4 Jan — A ceremony to present prizes to winners in the essay, poem, TV quiz and computer arts competitions to mark the 58th Anniversary Independence Day for 2006 was held at Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road, here, at 5 pm today, attended by Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 58th Anniversary Independence Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Secretary of the Sub-committee for Organizing the Competitions Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin acted as MC.

First, Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. (The speech of the Secretary-1 was reported separately.)

Next, Chairman of the Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min explained the purpose of holding the competitions.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented first, second and third prizes to seventh standard student Maung Kyaw Khang Htet of Pathein BEMS No 1, seventh standard student Ma Htet Htet Lin of Dagon Myothit (North) BEHS No 3 and seventh standard student Ma Swe Zar Maw of Nyanglingeb BEMS in the basic education middle level essay contest, seventh standard student Ma Honey Soe of Pathein BEHS No 3 and seventh standard student Maung Pyi Soe Paing of Kyauktan Myoma BEMS in the poem contest, and preliminary rounds of the TV quiz, and seventh standard student Maung Kyaw Htet Naung of Dagon BEMS No 1, sixth standard student Maung Phyo Hein Thwin of Chanayethazan BEHS No 16 and seventh standard student Maung Pyi Soe Paing of Kyauktan Myoma BEMS in the computer arts contest.

Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held

YANGON, 4 Jan — In accord with the four objectives of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day—All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegration of the Union and national unity; All the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit; and All the national people to make concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation—the 58th Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony was held at the People’s Square on Pyay Road here this morning.

(See page 6)